

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01370 281442Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06

NEA-09 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1040

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS STR FOR WOLFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: SEVEN PLUS SEVEN MEETING ON CHAIRMANSHIPS

1. SUMMARY: GATT DG LONG HELD AD HOC MEETING OF SEVEN PLUS SEVEN GROUP TODAY TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF SELECTING CHAIRMEN FOR TNC NEGOTIATING GROUPS. WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ENCOUNTERED, RANGING BETWEEN ALL-SECRETARIAT APPROACH AND SELECTING ALL FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. GROUP AGREED TO SWISS PROPOSAL FOR SMALL "GROUP OF WISE MEN" TO ACT AS SEVEN PLUS SEVEN AGENT IN CONSULTING WITH GENEVA DELEGATIONS. SEVEN PLUS SEVEN WILL MEET AGAIN TUESDAY MARCH 4 TO HEAR REPORT OF "WISE MEN" AND POSSIBLY ADOPT SLATE OF CHAIRMEN FOR SIX MAIN TNC GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01370 281442Z

2. GATT DG LONG CALLED MEETING OF SEVEN PLUS SEVEN

ON SHORT NOTICE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS HOW TO PROCEED IN SELECTING CHAIRMEN FOR TNC GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS. IN OPENING COMMENT, HE OBSERVED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT THESE QUESTIONS COULD BE EASILY RESOLVED BUT APPARENTLY THERE WAS NOT YET CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PROCEED. HE FELT STRONGLY THAT ANY CHAIRMEN WOULD NEED BE RESIDENT IN GENEVA, CAPABLE OF ACTING RESPONSIBLY AND INDEPENDENTLY, AND FURTHER THAT A "PACKAGE APPROACH" WAS PROBABLY PREFERABLE TO PIECemeAL DECISIONS ON CHAIRMEN.

3. COMMENTS IN RESPONSE BY MOST DELEGATIONS PRESENT REFLECTED DIVERSITY OF VIEWS ON WHETHER CHAIRMEN SHOULD BE SELECTED ENTIRELY FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS, ENTIRELY FROM SECRETARIAT, OR ON SOME MIXED BASIS. EC AND PAKISTAN WANTED START WITH ALL-SECRETARIAT CHAIRMEN. AUSTRALIA, JAMAICA AND ARGENTINA LEANED STRONGLY TOWARD NATIONAL CHAIRMEN. U.S., CANADA, NORDICS, SWITZERLAND, MALAYSIA, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRIA AND BRAZIL ALL FAVERED PRAGMATIC APPROACH WHERE MAIN EMPHASIS WAS QUALITY OF CANDIDATE, NOT HIS AFFILIATION. (U.S. AND JAPAN NOTED THIS NEED NOT EXCLUDE EVEN NON-DELEGATION NON-SECRETARIAT CANDIDATES IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES.) MOST AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME SELECTION OF CHAIRMEN FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS. MANY INCLUDING U.S. NOTED THAT CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION, WHILE SIGNIFICANT, NEED NOT BE APPROACHED WITH EXCESSIVE HASTE.

4. IN LIGHT OF DIVERSITY OF VIEWS, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND AND EC PREFERRED THAT DG CONDUCT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH DELEGATES AND REPORT FINDINGS BACK TO 7 PLUS 7. SWISS THEN PROPOSED VARIATION OF THIS APPROACH WHICH THEY SAID BASED ON GATT PRECEDENT. DG SHOULD BE ASSISTED IN CONDUCTING CONSULTATIONS BY GATT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SAHLGREN AND CP CHAIRMAN LAI WITH VIEW TO DETERMINING DEGREE OF CONSENSUS ON CHOICE OF TNC GROUP CHAIRMEN AND IF POSSIBLE SPECIFIC NAMES FOR SLATE OF CHAIRMEN. THIS PROPOSAL FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND REFERENCE AGAIN TO NEED FOR COMPETENCE, IMPARTIALITY, LOCAL RESIDENCE IF POSSIBLE, AND NEED TO INCLUDE LDC'S.

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01370 281442Z

ALL REPS ULTIMATELY SUPPORTED THIS APPROACH AS REASONABLE WAY TO MOVE AHEAD. DG, LAI, AND SAHLGREN ALL CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. DG INVITED SUB-MISSION BY DELS OF PREFERRED NAMES FOR CHAIRMANSHIPS ASAP AND ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CONVENE 7 PLUS 7 AGAIN TUESDAY, MARCH 4 9:15 A.M. WITH OBJECT OF AGREEING ON CHAIRMEN FOR SIX MAIN TNC GROUPS AT THAT TIME IF POSSIBLE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CHAIRMANSHIPS QUESTION

MIGHT NOT AND NEED NOT BE SETTLED BY THAT TIME AND THAT
SECRETARIAT WILLING TO PROVIDE INTERIM CHARMEN IF NECESSARY.
DALE

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